

**RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT
COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO REGULATIONS AND END THE EPIDEMIC OF
YOUTH E-CIGARETTE USE**

WHEREAS, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States and in Hawai‘i, where \$526,000,000 in annual health care costs are directly attributed to tobacco use in the State; and

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming increase in the use of electronic smoking devices (ESDs) or e-cigarettes by Hawai‘i’s youth, with eighteen per cent of middle school and thirty-one per cent of Hawai‘i public high school students reporting using an ESD in the last 30 days in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the over 15,500 e-cigarette flavors are driving the surge in youth e-cigarette use, with eight in ten youth who use tobacco reporting that they started with a flavored product; and

WHEREAS, according to Nielsen data, in 2018 the top 25 e-cigarette manufacturers brought in more than \$2.5 billion in sales with 96% of these sales were from brands owned in whole or part by Big Tobacco; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry spends an estimated \$26 million on marketing in Hawai‘i each year, triple the amount Hawai‘i spends annually on tobacco prevention and control programs; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive tobacco regulations and robust tobacco prevention and cessation programs have led to historic declines in combustible cigarette use over the last decade,

WHEREAS, in 2018 the U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams issued an advisory and call to action for all local and state government to enact policies on the regulation, sale, marketing, and access to flavors that would protect our children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use; and

WHEREAS, only the Hawai‘i State Legislature has the authority to enact comprehensive regulations on the sale of electronic smoking devices, as the counties are preempted from passing local level policies due to Act 206 (2018); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Honolulu Youth Commission recognizes this public health concern and asks the Hawai‘i State Legislature to take immediate action and pass legislation to regulate e-cigarettes in the same manner as other tobacco products and remove all flavored tobacco products from the market to end the youth vaping crisis and reduce the negative health impact made by e-cigarettes and other emerging tobacco products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Youth Commission urges other youth organizations in the State of Hawaii to support the concerted efforts of our youth and other groups to raise awareness on this issue and reverse the devastating impact that vaping has created in our communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State Hawai‘i, the Chairs of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce, Finance, and Health Committees and Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection, Health, Judiciary, and Ways and Means Committees.